

FROM: Doug Heiken, Oregon Wild | PO Box 11648, Eugene, OR 97440 | 541-344-0675 | dh@oregonwild.org

TO: comments-pacificnorthwest-rogueriver-siskiyoumountains@fs.fed.us

DATE: 20 Dec 2018

RE: Upper Applegate Restoration EA - comments

Please accept the following comments from Oregon Wild regarding the proposed Upper Applegate Restoration EA. Oregon Wild represents 20,000 members and supporters who share our mission to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife and waters as an enduring legacy. These comments supplement the comments submitted on our behalf by Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands on December 17, 2018. We also agree with the detailed comments prepared by Luke Ruediger for the Applegate Neighborhood Network.

We support many of the elements of this restoration project, with a few caveats as articulated in the comment letters submitted by KS Wild and ANN, e.g., take care to protect large trees, late successional habitat, suitable owl habitat, unroaded areas, riparian areas, soil & water, etc.

We are writing this letter to emphasize our concerns with expanded OHV trails.

Our understanding is that expanded OHV trails were not part of the original collaborative proposal, but were a late addition that was and remains controversial and a poor fit with the restoration purposes of this project. OHVs disturb soil and native vegetation, spread weeds, increase fire ignition risk, cause erosion/sedimentation, and impair water quality & fish habitat.

OHVs are also incompatible with low-impact quiet recreation. OHV's are used by only a small fraction of the public, while a much larger segment of the public enjoys hiking and quiet recreation. Once OHVs use is established, other forest recreation activities are often diminished or displaced.

Sincerely,

/s/

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